



## ***Department of Public Health & Human Services, Helena***

### **Meeting Minutes November 11, 2008**

#### **I. Call to order**

**Dennis Maier, MD** called to order the regular meeting of the **State Trauma Care Committee** at **1130 on November 11, 2008 in Helena, MT.**

#### **II. Roll call**

Roll call was conducted and the following persons were present:

**Present:** Kristin Lowery, Jay Pottenger, Pauline Linnell, Lauri Jackson, Andrew Michel, Freddy Bartoletti, Joe Hansen, Dr. Dennis Maier, Brad Vonbergen and Lyndy Gurchiek attended via MetNet. Justin Grohs attended by conference call

**Absent:** Brad Pickhardt, Tim Sinton, Jenn Theusen, Elaine Schuchard .

**Guests:** Bobbi Perkins, Gail Hatch, Dayle Perrin, Jim DeTienne, Jennie Nemec, John Bleicher, Paula Colledge, Carol Kussman and Lindsey McCurdy. Penny Clifton and Becky Stabio attended via MetNet.

#### **III. Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

#### **IV. Handouts**

- Agenda & previous meeting (08-11-08) minutes
- ERTAC & WRTAC meeting minutes
- Legislative Audit Status Update
- Seat Belt Use and Health Care Costs in MT, Draft of Harborview News Release
- MT Public Health Newsletter/Primary SB
- Hospital Preparedness update

## **V. RTAC Report**

a) **Central RTAC** report given by Lauri Jackson. The last CRTAC meeting was October 23, 2008 and hosted by Benefis Healthcare. Dr. Orcutt is resigning as physician chair of the CRTAC this spring, so nominations/volunteers for his replacement are being taken. Lauri reported that there is a possibility of one interested surgeon in Great Falls. Attendance has generally improved with case reviews, but physician participation in CRTAC remains challenging. Due to lack of physician support, no TEAM courses have been scheduled in the Central Region, but discussion has taken place regarding use of interested/qualified mid-level providers to present physician/midlevel course material and “regional” perspective so important to the TEAM course concepts. Discussion regarding the availability of pediatric neurosurgery and regional planning was conducted. Lauri reported conducting an excellent case review for the last meeting.

b) **Eastern RTAC** report given by Penny Clifton

The ERTAC was held on September 18, 2008, was hosted by St. Vincent Healthcare with good participation both in person and via tele-medicine. Meeting minutes were distributed. One case review was presented highlighting trauma patients with on-going volume loss. Dr. Steven Klepps presented education on evaluation and treatment of a variety of orthopedic injuries from pre-hospital to ED and through transfer. Additional educational offering presented included conducting case reviews for PI and conducting meetings/keeping minutes. Dr Maier presented information concerning Billings Level II facility capabilities for trauma resuscitation and consistent communication regarding trauma patients transferred to Billings. Discussion of pediatric neurosurgery availability and regional planning was also conducted.

- The next meeting will be December 11, 2008 hosted by Billings Clinic.

c) **Western RTAC** report given by John Bleicher

The WRTAC meeting was held on October 17, 2008 hosted by St Patrick Hospital. Meeting minutes were distributed. The EMS meeting was held with discussions about re-invigorating the meeting, purposes and participants. Jim DeTienne discussed ideas for mentoring WRTAC EMS Directors/providers and possible travel funds to support those activities. The RN meeting was held with Hypothermia, technical barriers for interfacility transfers, nurse-to-nurse and physician-to-physician reporting were all discussed. Dr Janczewski's term as chairperson has expired. There was discussion of election of a new chairperson to be re-addressed at the next WRTAC meeting. Case reviews were presented and attendees agreed to an RTAC recommendation that all intubated trauma patients have in-line CO2 detection when such a device is available in the pre-hospital setting. Discussion of pediatric neurosurgery availability and regional planning was also conducted

- The next meeting will be January 9, 2009 and hosted by Community Medical Center in the Rehabilitation Dayroom.

## **VI. Trauma System Update** – Jennie Nemec

- Jennie Nemec accepted the position as Trauma System Manager 9/15/08. Carol Kussman is contracting to provide Trauma System support and Kim Todd is contracting to act as Designation Consultant..
- STCC positions recently appointed by Governor Brian Schweitzer include; Andrew Michel, MD American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP); Brad Vonbergen, Eastern RTAC, Joe Hansen, Eastern RTAC, Lauri Jackson, Central RTAC; Justin Grohs, Private Ambulance Service Operators; Jenn Theusen, Western RTAC, Freddy Bartoletti, Montana Medical Association.

- Designation/Verification activities include American College of Surgeons Verification/MT Designation site surveys for: Bozeman Deaconess Hospital September 16 & 17 and Community Medical Center, Missoula October 1 & 2, 2008.  
Montana Designation Focused Reviews for; Big Timber 10/13/08, Harlowton 10/14/08; Anaconda 10/16/08; and Chester 10/22/08. MT Designation site visits were conducted as follows; Plains (MT Community Trauma Facility) 10/30/08, Polson (MTRF) 10/31/08 and Deer Lodge (MTRF) 11/14/08.  
Additional facilities submitting applications for Designation include;  
Madison Valley, Ennis (MTRF)  
Prairie Community, Terry (MTRF)  
Marias Medical Center, Shelby (MTRF)  
Pondera Medical Center, Conrad (MTRF)  
Mineral county, Superior (MTRF)  
Barrett Hospital, Dillon (MTRF)
- A successful Montana Trauma System Conference was held in Missoula September 10, 2008 in Missoula just prior to a successful Rocky Mountain Rural Trauma Symposium held September 11 & 12, 2008 and hosted by the WRTAC. The next MTS Conference is scheduled for September 16, 2009 in Red Lodge immediately followed by the Rocky Mountain Rural Trauma Symposium September 17 & 18 in Red Lodge hosted by the ERTAC.
- Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) 2009 course dates finalized and posted  
Dates and locations are;  
March 6 & 7,               Great Falls  
April 10 & 11,           Billings  
June 5 & 6,               Missoula  
October 9 & 10,       Missoula  
November 6 & 7,       Billings  
An ATLS Instructor Course will also be scheduled in Billings, possibly May 1 or 2.
- Basic Disaster Life Support Courses have been scheduled/conducted over the ILinc system in October and November with plans to schedule another Advance Disaster Life Support Course in Spring, 2009. Response and attendance for the BDLS courses by live computer presentation has been very successful while requiring no participant travel.
- Trauma Registry: New Collector CV4 software for the Trauma Registry has been delayed by Digital Innovations until such time as the 2005 AAIS coder can be added and adjustments made to the ICD-9 dictionary. We anticipate getting the new version late 2008 or early 2009.  
Smaller facilities submitting paper abstracts for TR patient in for entering into the State Trauma Registry has increased from 16 in 2006 to 34 facilities year-to-date 2008. We are exploring grant funding to enable a web-based version of the TR abstract to be developed for smaller facilities with smaller volumes of trauma patients that would not utilize Collector to decrease manual handling of patient abstracts both at the local facilities and state level, improving “import” capability of necessary data into the State Trauma Registry. Currently, smaller facilities submitting paper abstracts are receiving their batch of abstracts back with attached summary computerized reports and a letter including feedback on their trauma care processes and Performance Improvement recommendations based on trends

EMSTS staff identify. This direct feedback process is unique to Montana and facilities are utilizing the feedback/recommendations in their PI/Trauma Designation activities.

- Montana Health Research and Education Foundation (MHREF) through the Rural Flexibility Grant funding will again be providing Trauma System support through; ATLS tuition scholarships for 2 physicians and 2 mid-level providers from a Critical Access Hospital in each RTAC; TNCC tuition Scholarships for 20 CAH nurses and support for 2 TEAM courses provided to Critical Access Hospitals in each RTAC.
- Three systems issues should receive prioritized attention by STCC and regionally through RTACS;
  - Local/regional availability of Pediatric Neurosurgery and regional planning to facilitate appropriate transfers
  - Air Ambulance utilization, standardization and safety
  - “Quantification” of MT Trauma System value and outcomes

## **VII. EMS System Report – Jim DeTienne**

Jim provided the EMS Legislative Audit Recommendations Status Report. Copies were distributed for review and discussion. Development of the Emergency Care Committee continues. Several positions still need to be filled with interested candidates. Several legislative bills of interest are being developed including; EMS, Injury Prevention/Poison Control, and ED/Hospital Discharge Data. There is a Legislative update web access Jim will update

## **VIII. Injury Prevention – Jennie Nemec & Brad Vonbergen**

Brad Vonbergen reviewed the handouts and information provided by the MT Seatbelt Coalition, as he is an active member. Discussion followed regarding support strategies and the seatbelt session Dr Woods presented @ MMA and its impact. Several committee members expressed interest in providing such a session to civic organizations. Brad originated that session and volunteered to revise it and share with committee members interested in using it for broadening Primary SB law support.

## **IX. Sub-committee Reports**

### **a) Information Systems/Performance Improvement (Chairperson Brad Pickhardt)**

- Report given by Jennie Nemec. Trauma registry and performance improvement summary information provided to the general committee.
- Designation decisions 11/17/08:
  - Community Hospital, Anaconda: Provisional designation as MTRF for one year with Focused Review in one year.
  - Pioneer Medical Center, Big Timber; Full designation as MTRF for one year remaining on original designation period (through 12/18/09)
  - Liberty County Hospital, Chester; Full designation as MTRF for two years remaining on original designation period (through 8/14/10) w/specific requirement
  - Wheatland Memorial Healthcare, Harlowton; Full designation as MTRF for two years remaining on original designation period (through 8/14/10)

- Phillips County Hospital, Malta; Full designation as MTRF for three-year period (through 5/26/11) after receiving provisional designation for one year (5/28/08)
- Clark Fork Valley Hospital, Plains; Full designation as Community Trauma Facility for three year period (through 10/20/11)
- St. Joseph Hospital, Polson; Provisional designation as MTRF for one year with Focused Review in six months
- Powell County Hospital, Deer Lodge; provisional designation as MTRF for one year with focused review in one year.

**b) Public Advocacy / Legislation**

No activity.

**c) Education (Chairperson John Bleicher)**

- 2009's trauma system conference and the Rocky Mountain Rural Trauma Symposium (RMRTS) will be hosted by the Eastern RTAC and held in Red Lodge on September 16- 18. Planning has started for both conferences. MSU/Burns giving up administration of conferences as their mission is changing. Alternatives for conference administration after this next conference and budgets are being explored.
- TEAM courses are being conducted in ERTAC & WRTAC. Physician participation continues to be a challenging issue and has precluded TEAM Courses in CRTAC. Committee discussed possibilities of utilizing experienced midlevel providers as instructors to present the medical provider material.
- The next Trauma Coordinator/Trauma Registrar meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2009 (the day following the next STCC).
- We have proposed the next MT/WY Trauma coordinator meeting for May 12, 2009 (with possibly the May STCC 5/11 scheduled in Billings for ease of travel). Wyoming trauma coordinators are interested, so we will continue to develop this session. The MT American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma has agreed to provide some financial assistance for those attending the meeting.
- ATLS Courses have been scheduled. An additional ATLS instructor course may be offered May 1 or 2, 2009 in Billings.

**d) Organization / Emergency Preparedness (Chairperson Tim Sinton)**

Dayle Perrin provided an update and distributed the handout outlining Emergency preparedness activities for grant year 2007-2008. 56 hospitals have participated in the Hospital Preparedness program. Additional information on Interoperable Communications, ESAR-VP/MHMAS, Resource Tracking, Trauma designation, and EP training was included. HRSA grant fund letters are being distributed: hospitals working on Trauma designation/recently received trauma designation will be eligible for funds to continue that support and enhancement of capabilities. Larger facilities with mature Trauma programs will be eligible for funds to support Pan flu planning and preparedness.

Patrick O'Neil, manager of St. Vincent Healthcare EP/Safety attended by teleconference to update EP Subcommittee on challenges of Billings interoperable communications

**e) EMS-Children Oversight**

Joe Hansen reported the EMS-C oversight committee will be meeting 11/18 to review grant goals, strategic directions and activities for Montana's implementation of EMS-C national priorities

**X. Public Comment**

None received.

**XI. Adjournment**

**Chairman Dennis Maier** adjourned the meeting.

The **next State Trauma Care Committee** meeting will be held in Helena, **February 9, 2009**.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Jennie Nemec, RN